

REMARKS

Claims 1-39, 41, 42, 44 and 45 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-42, 44 and 45 stand rejected. Claims 1, 4, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 21-23, 26, 29, 30, 32, 35, 36, 42 and 44 have been amended herein and Claims 7 and 10 have been cancelled herein. New Claims 46-51 have been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the present amendments and following remarks. The above amendments and following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action and to render all claims at issue patentably distinct over the references cited.

Claims 1-39, 41, 42, 44 and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Kapusnik et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,452,839). This rejection is respectfully traversed. It is believed that the originally filed claims are patentably distinct over the cited reference.

Notwithstanding, independent Claim 1 has been amended to state that the welding gun includes an electromagnetic actuator operably advancing the holder and a pneumatic element feeding hose, the gauge has a component-facing surface which is three-dimensionally contoured, the gauge includes at least one receptacle and at least one through-hole, and an elongated pin extends generally parallel to an advancing direction of the holder, and the holder operably advances and assists in welding the element to the component. Support for this amendment can be found within Applicants' originally filed Figure 1 and at least Paragraph No. [0032] of the originally filed application. Furthermore, independent Claim 15 has been amended to state that the positioner is elongated and generally straight, and that there is direct contact between

the positioner and the bottom of the gauge's receiver. Support for this amendment can be found in Figure 1 and the originally filed Paragraph Nos. [0031] and [0032].

Independent Claim 29 has been amended to add that the bottom of the receiver contacts an elongated pin extending from the welder and that the element is welded at a curved surface of the component. Support for this amendment can be found in Figure 1 and at least the originally filed Paragraph No. [0014].

Finally, independent Claim 44 has been amended to state that an end of the positioner directly contacts against the adjustable member. Support for this amendment can be found in Figure 2 and at least the originally filed Paragraph Nos. [0016], [0022] and [0034]. In contrast, the cited references does not disclose the presently claimed combinations of features, especially as amended. The Examiner's "response to arguments" on page 3, section 3, of the Office Action is not fully understood. For example, the Examiner stated "Reference number 24 is a receiver on the gauge #10 to receive the positioner #4." The Examiner's understanding of this Kapusnik reference is incorrect as the guide bar 4 does not contact against the retaining elements 24, especially since the positioning plate 10 is not a gauge. It is noteworthy that template 32 of Kapusnik is not in contact with guide bar 4 in any manner. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the instant rejection.

In view of the instant amendments, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is requested that the Examiner pass the case to issue at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Nov. 2, 2006

By: 
Monte L. Falcoff, Reg. No. 37,617

Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

MLF/cmg